

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the following comments are respectfully requested.

In the office action mailed December 30, 2005, the Examiner made a second restriction requirement between the following groups of invention:

I. Claims 1 - 14, drawn to a method for cleaning a furnace and heat treating a workpiece, classified in class 148, subclass 559+; and

II. Claims 15 - 23, drawn to a method for heat treating a coated workpiece, classified in class 427, subclass 534+.

Applicants hereby elect the invention of group I for purposes of examination. The election is made without traverse.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe an amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, he is hereby invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response. Should the Director determine that a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Burns et al.

By


Barry L. Kelmachter

BACHMAN & LaPOINTE, P.C.

Reg. No. 29,999

Attorney for Applicants

Telephone: (203)777-6628 ext. 112

Telefax: (203)865-0297

Date: January 23, 2006 Email: docket@bachlap.com

I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on January 23, 2006.

